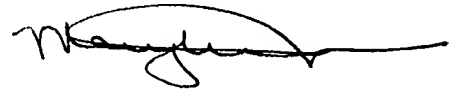## REMARKS

The Specification and the Abstract for the above-identified application have been amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors. A marked-up version of the Specification and Abstract is submitted as "Attachment A - Marked-Up Version of Specification and Abstract." Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectively requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A - MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT

This is an attachment showing the marked-up version of the Specification and the Abstract.

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 1, line 12 and ending at page 1, line 27 as follows:

-- An item which has [been] become needless by purchasing a new item has often been discarded as a junk.

With the change of the times, it is guessed that, in the near future, of not only home electric [equipments] equipment but also office automation [equipments] equipment such as printers for recycling would be under an obligation to be collected for recycling. Since the collection of such home electric [equipments] equipment or the office automation [equipments] equipment is a burden to a user or a junk dealer, an efficiently collecting method has been desired or requested.

Further, when the item is collected efficiently, the recycling will [be hot up] increase and [the] item [manufactures] manufacturers can use the recycled items, [and] thereby preventing deterioration of the environment and permitting effective use of resources. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 8, line 1 and ending at page 8, line 1 as follows:

-- Fig. 5 is a view showing contents of [data base] a database. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 10, line 13 and ending at page 10, line 17 as follows:

-- In a step S1, the user [request] requests a company to buy or purchase a new item or to pick up an item. More specifically, the user's computer 13 accesses [to] a home page of the computer 12 at the company through the network 11. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 11, line 2 and ending at page 11, line 12 as follows:

-- When the "pick-up and buy new item" is selected, a name of an item 42 to be newly purchased and a name of an item 43 to be picked up are inputted. On the other hand, when the "pick-up only" is selected, the name of the item 43 to be picked up is inputted. The item 42 to be newly purchased can be selected among OA equipment or home electric [equipments] equipment displayed in a menu item and, for example, as the name of the item, a printer A can be selected. Similarly, as the name of the item 43 to be picked up, a printer B can be selected. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 12, line 1 and ending at page 12, line 22 as follows:

-- A name of a desired store is selected among the stores displayed in the menu item and the selected store name is inputted into a pick-up and buy new item or pick-up place area 48. The user brings the item to be picked up to the selected store so that [can perform] the purchasing of new item and the picking-up of the old item or the picking-up of the item can be performed at that store. In this case, since the user's address was already inputted in the your address area 46, when one or plural stores in the vicinity of the user's address are displayed as a menu item, the user can easily select the nearest store among the displayed [stored] stores. When the stores in the vicinity of the requester's

address are displayed, the stores may be displayed as map information so that the requester can select the desired store on the map by using the mouse.

Lastly, when a request button 49a is clicked by <u>using</u> the mouse, the request information is sent from the user's computer 13 to the computer 12 at the company. If a cancel button 49b is clicked by <u>using</u> the mouse, the sending is not effected and the user request view is ended. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 13, line 8 and ending at page 13, line 16 as follows:
-- In a step S3, the computer 12 at the company ascertains storage of the item to be newly purchased and sends to the user's computer 13 information regarding a purchase date or a pick-up date, as well as the identification information. Such sending is effected via E-[main] <u>mail</u> to an E-mail address shown in Fig. 4. The user can perform the purchasing of the new item and picking-up of the old item or the picking-up the item at the store on the designated date or thereafter. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 13, line 24 and ending at page 14, line 23 as follows:
-- In a step S5, the user brings the item to be picked up to the store 48 designated in Fig. 4 on or after the designated date, thereby performing the purchasing of new item and the picking-up of the old item or the picking-up of the item. In this case, a user brings a request card on which the identification information was printed by the printer of the user's computer 13 to the store. The store ascertains whether the user is a requester or not by collating the identification information written on the request card with the identification information received in the step S2 (personal verification). However, if the printer was

broken or if the user does not have [the] a printer, the user may tell the identification information to the store orally for [the] personal verification.

After [the] personal verification, the purchasing of the new item and picking-up of the old item or the [the] item to be picked up is performed. Regarding the [the] item to be picked up, the user hands over the item to be picked up to the store. When the user selects the cash payment, he pays the pick-up charge to the store. Regarding the purchasing of the new item and picking-up of the old item, the user hands over the item to be picked up to the store and receives the new item. When the user selects the cash payment, he pays the pick-up charge and the item charge to the store. -- .

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 17, line 11 and ending at page 19, line 18 as follows:
--   As mentioned above, the request for purchasing the new item or picking up the item can be effected by inputting required items on the home page via the network. The user can easily [effects] effect the purchasing of the new item or picking up of the item at the nearest store. The store sticks the recycling card to the picked-up item and forwards it to the recycling collection center. After the picked-up item is received, the recycling collection center informs the company of the fact that the pick-up is finished. On the basis of such information, the company can judge that the purchasing of the new item or picking up of the item is finished. The purchasing of the new item or picking up of the item can be effected without bring trouble to a user by using the on-line network efficiently. Further, since the user's burden is reduced, the recycling can be promoted and the resources can be utilized effectively in the viewpoint of the environment.

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Further, since the user [go to] goes to the store for effecting the purchasing of the new item or picking up of the item, there is the great possibility that the user buys other goods at that store on his way, thereby enhancing business results of the store. In consideration of such enhancement, since there is the great possibility that the stores approve of the above-mentioned system, the network system can easily be expanded.

Incidentally, in the illustrated embodiment, while an example that the user effects the request by using the user's computer 13 at home was explained, a computer corresponding to the user's computer 13 may be set at the store as a terminal from which the user can effect the request. In this case, when the request is effected through the terminal equipment, as mentioned above, since there is the great possibility that the user buys other goods at the store, it is favorable for the store and the company has [a] merit that the purchasing of the new item is promoted and, thus, [the] recycling is [more] promoted more. Thus, the pick-up charge may be discounted when the request is effected via the terminal equipment.

Further, by using the network system, not only the picking up of the item but also the purchasing of the new item and picking up of the old item can be promoted. Since the sale of new items is promoted by the purchasing of the new item and picking up of the old item, the company has greater merit. Thus, when the user requests for purchasing the new item and picking up the old item, the company may give a special favor to the user when the user requests for purchasing the new item and picking up the old item. Such a special favor may be, for example, free (charge) service of printer ink or printing papers or a [perchandise] merchandise coupon which can be used at the store. Such a special favor can be applied to both the case where the request is effected through the terminal equipment

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and the case where the purchasing of the new item and picking up of the old item is requested. Further, such a special favor may be given to the user after the completion of the purchasing of the new item and picking up of the old item or the picking up of the item is ascertained through the database 51 (Fig. 5). -- .

In the Abstract

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 29, line 2 and ending at page 29, line 19 as follows:

-- With the [change] changing of the times, it is guessed that, in the near future, of not only home electric [equipments] equipment but also office automation [equipments] equipment such as printers for recycling would be under an obligation to be collected for recycling. Since the collection of such home electric [equipments] equipment or the office automation [equipments] equipment is a burden to the user or the collector, an efficiently collecting method has been desired or required. In order to solve the above problem, it is provided that a communication method suitable for effecting purchasing of a new item or picking-up of an item to be recycled, comprising the steps of designating request for purchasing a new item or picking up an item, designating a place where [said] the purchasing or picking-up is performed, and notifying the designated request and the designated place to an external place through a network. --.